REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the stabilizing member is provided in an area on a side of the polygon mirror between the polygon mirror and a side wall of a main body of the optical scanning apparatus, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 19, line 14 to page 21, line 3.

In addition, claim 3 has been amended to recite the feature recited in claim 1 whereby the stabilizing member has a height greater than a height of a lower surface of the rotary polygon mirror.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1 and 3 be approved and entered.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct a minor informality of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 5,726,699 ("Itami et al") and USP 6,424,447 ("Kaneko et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to claims 1 and 3 as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3, a stabilizing is member provided in a vicinity of an outer circumference of the polygon mirror to stabilize air flow generated by rotation of the polygon mirror. As recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3, the stabilizing member has a height greater than a height of a lower surface of the rotary polygon mirror, and the stabilizing member is provided in an area on a side of the polygon mirror between the polygon mirror and a side wall of a main body of the optical scanning apparatus. With this structure, the claimed present invention is able to inhibit abrupt changes in air pressure around the polygon mirror, so as to stabilize the rotation of the polygon mirror.

By contrast, it is respectfully pointed out that the mirror keeper 31 of Itami et al, which the Examiner contends corresponds to the stabilizing member of the claimed present invention, is mounted on the rotating shaft of the polygon mirror 30. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the mirror keeper 31 of Itami et

al is clearly not provided in an area on a side of the polygon mirror, as according to the claimed present invention.

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that Itami et al in fact discloses that turbulent airflow is reduced by manipulating the width of the opening 34 in the inner surface 33a of the polygon mirror cover. (See, for example the abstract of Itami et al, and column 4, line 61 to column 5, line 11 of Itami et al). And it is respectfully submitted that the opening 34 of Itami et al clearly does not correspond to the stabilizing member of the claimed present inventin, which as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3 is provided in an area on a side of the polygon mirror between the polygon mirror and a side wall of a main body of the optical scanning apparatus.

Still further, the Examiner acknowledges on page 3 of the Office Action that Itami et al does not disclose a stabilizing member having a height greater than a height of the lower surface of the polygon mirror. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Kaneko et al to supply the missing teaching of Itami et al.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that even if Itami et al and Kaneko et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structure of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3 would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In particular, it is respectfully pointed out that according to Kaneko et al, the corrugated cylindrical partition 51 surrounds the polygon mirror 17 so as to reduce speed variation. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Kaneko et al also does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the claimed present invention whereby the stabilizing member is provided in an area on a side of the polygon mirror between the polygon mirror and a side wall of a main body of the optical scanning apparatus.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Itami et al and Kaneko et al, taken singly or in any combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 3 patentably distinguish over Itami et al and Kaneko et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

* *

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Application No. 10/650,058
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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